

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL OBSERVATIONS, MOSCOW- MINERALNYE VODY,
JUNE 1-6

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

1. AGATTACHE BROWN AND ASSISTANT AGATTACHE DANYLUK TRAVELED BY
CAR MOSCOW- OREL- KHARKOV- ROSTOV- KRASNODAR, MINERALNYE VODY
JUNE 1-6.

2. SUMMARY: WINTER GRAINS PROGRESSING WELL IN GOOD STANDS.
SOME LODGING BUT GENERALLY LIMITED TO SMALL PORTIONS OF FIELDS.
SPRING GRAINS GENERALLY GOOD BUT SOME WEEDS AND MUSTARD. CORN
FROM LATE TO WELL- ADVANCED; SOME WEEDS BUT FIELDS BEING WORKED.
ROW CROPS DEVELOPING FAVORABLY. SUNFLOWER MOSTLY GOOD STANDS;
SOME WEEDS. SUGARBEETS ADVANCING GOOD; SOME STARTING TO ROOT.
WEEDS NO MORE THAN AVERAGE. POTATOES IN ALL STAGES OF GROWTH;
CLEAN AND FEW WEEDS. CASTOR -- GOOD STANDS; FEW WEEDS. FORAGE
CROPS HAVE GOOD GROWTH BUT CHARACTERIZED AS WEEDY. ALFALFA AND
CLOVER VERY GOOD STANDS BUT ALFALFA ON WEEDY SIDE. FIELD PEAS,
SUDAN, AND OTHER MIXTURES GOOD GROWTH AND STANDS BUT USUALLY
WEEDY. PASTURES GENERALLY FAIR TO GOOD, IMPROVING PROGRESSIVELY
SOUTH. SOIL MOISTURE GOOD TO EXCELLENT, REPLENISHED BY RECENT
RAINS. CATTLE FLESHING OUT; CONDITION JUDGED AVERAGE TO GOOD. END
SUMMARY.

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3. WINTER GRAINS: WINTER WHEAT CONDITION GOOD TO EXCELLENT IN
ALL AREAS. MOST FIELDS CLEAN, EVEN AND THICK STANDS, AND ONLY
SMALL PERCENTAGE WITH LIGHT WEEDS OR MUSTARD. FEW FIELDS EN-
COUNTERED WITH HEAVY WEED OR MUSTARD INFESTATION. AVERAGE HEIGHT

FOR AREA THREE AND ONE- HALF FEET, HOWEVER, KHARKOV- MINERALNYE VODY AREA, WHERE SOME FIELDS MORE ADVANCED, HEIGHT WAS GREATER. HEADING PROGRESSIVELY HIGHER RATE FROM KHARKOV SOUTH ALSO BLOOMING STAGE PASSING INTO MILK STAGE. ONLY FEW FIELDS APPROACHED WAX STAGE. FEW LATE FIELDS, ENCOUNTERED THROUGHOUT TRIP, PROGRESSING WELL. LODGING OBSERVED THROUGHOUT TRIP BUT USUALLY LIMITED TO SMALL PORTIONS OF FIELDS. ONLY ONE FIELD OBSERVED BADLY LODGED. WINTER RYE GENERALLY GOOD TO VERY GOOD, GENERALLY IN GOOD STANDS AND CLEAN WITH A GOOD SHARE HEADED AND APPROACHING BLOOMING STAGE. HEIGHT RANGE, PROGRESSIVELY INCREASING SOUTH, BETWEEN TWO AND ONE- HALF TO FIVE FEET, AVERAGE AT FOUR TO FOUR AND ONE- HALF FEET. LODGING ON SMALL SCALE THROUGHOUT AREA BUT QUITE WIDE - SPREAD IN THE KRASNODAR- MINERALNYE VODY AREA. IN THIS AREA FIELDS SOMEWHAT WEEDIER. SOME SLIGHT CHANGE IN COLOR WAS OBSERVED IN THE EXTREME SOUTH OF THE AREA TRAVERSED. WINTER BARLEY WAS GOOD TO EXCELLENT, WELL HEADED AND MOST FIELDS IN MILKY- WAX STAGE. ALL BARLEY ADVANCING WELL AND IN MOST INSTANCES BEGINNING TO TURN. AVERAGE HEIGHT WAS 30 INCHES IN CLEAN, GOOD STANDS. LODGING OBSERVED BETWEEN KRASNODAR- MINERALNYE VODY, SOME FIELDS QUITE EXTENSIVE.

4. SPRING GRAINS: SPRING GRAINS THROUGHOUT TRIP WERE GOOD TO VERY GOOD. WEEDS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE WIDESPREAD BUT MUSTARD WAS A MORE COMMON PEST WITH SOME FIELDS SHOWING HEAVY INFESTATION. MOST STANDS WERE GOOD, THICK AND EVEN. THIS ALSO TRUE OF LATE PLANTED GRAINS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND KHARKOV WITH HEIGHT OF 12-15 INCHES. PROGRESSING SOUTH HEIGHT RANGE FOR MOST WAS TWO- THREE FEET. GRAINS THAT WERE HEADING AVERAGED THREE AND THREE AND ONE- HALF FEET TALL. CORN FIRST ENCOUNTERED BETWEEN OREL- KHARKOV AT AN EARLY TWO LEAF STAGE IN GOOD STANDS AND CLEAN, RECENTLY HAR- ROWED FIELDS. ALMOST ALL CORN IN THIS AREA PLANTED IN 28 INCH ROWS -- FRO GRAIN. BETWEEN KHARKOV AND KRASNODAR CORN WAS CHARACTERIZED AS GOOD OR VERY GOOD. A WIDE RANGE OF HEIGHT WAS ENCOUNTERED HERE, FROM TWO TO 24 INCHES. AVERAGE HEIGHT FOR MOST BETWEEN EIGHT AND 10 INCHES. FIELDS HAD GOOD EVEN STANDS AND THE FIELDS WERE GENERALLY CLEAN WITH VERY FEW WEEDS. PROGRESSING SOUTH WEEDS BECAME MORE EVIDENT BUT FIELDS WERE BEING CULTIVATED

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AND WORKED BY HAND. LITTLE CORN WAS OBSERVED BETWEEN KRASNODAR AND MINERALNYE VODY BUT THAT SEEN WAS GOOD, RANGING IN HEIGHT BETWEEN ONE TO TWO AND ONE- HALF FEET. SOME WEEDY FIELDS WERE NOTED.

5. ROW CROPS: SUNFLOWER WAS FIRST SEEN IN THE UKRAINE. PRIOR TO THAT ROW CROPS WERE JUST EMERGING AND ONLY FEW WERE IDENTIFIED. THE FIRST SUNFLOWER FIELD WAS SIX INCHES HIGH WITH SIX LEAVES AND AN EXCELLENT STAND IN 28 INCH ROWS. BETWEEN KHARKOV AND MINERALNYE VODY SUNFLOWER WAS CHARACTERIZED AS GOOD OR VERY GOOD, MOSTLY CLEAN AND IN GOOD, THICK STANDS. SOME WEEDY FIELDS BEING CULTI- VATED AND WORKED BY HAND. ONLY ONE FIELD IN THE EXTREME SOUTH

WAS IDENTIFIED AS EXTREMELY WEEDY. HEIGHT OF PLANTS RANGED FROM SIX INCHES TO TWO AND ONE- HALF FEET. ON THE AVERAGE, RANGE WAS EIGHT TO 12 INCHES AND ONLY A FEW ADVANCED FIELDS WERE BETWEEN ONE AND ONE- HALF AND TWO AND ONE- HALF FEET TALL. SUGARBEETS, FROM KHARKOV TO MINERALNYE VODY, WERE GOOD TO VERY GOOD. ALL STANDS HAD GOOD HEALTHY APPEARANCE AND AVERAGED SIX TO TEN INCHES TALL. SOME FIELDS WERE MORE ADVANCED THAN OTHERS BUT IN MOST CASES STANDS WERE SOLID AND FIELDS CLEAN. SOME FIELDS STARTING TO ROOT. POTATOES RANGED FROM EARLY SPROUTING TO HEIGHT TO 12 INCHES. MOST FIELDS HAD GOOD EVEN STANDS. SOME WEEDY FIELDS WERE ENCOUNTERED BUT HANDWEEDING WAS UNDERWAY. A FEW FIELDS CASTOR BEANS WERE OBSERVED. ALL HAD GOOD STANDS AND WERE IN CLEAN FIELDS IN 28 INCHROWS.

6. FORAGE CROPS: MOST ALFALFA FIELDS HAD GOOD GROWTH BUT MANY WERE WEEDY -- OFTEN TO POINT WHERE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY MAJOR CROP. AVERAGE HEIGHT FOR ALFALFA RANGED FROM 12 TO 18 INCHES. SOME FIELDS WERE MOWED EITHER PARTIALLY OR COMPLETELY. THE FEW CLOVER FIELDS ENCOUNTERED HAD GOOD TO EXCELLENT STANDS AND WERE ABOUT TWO FEET HIGH. MOST WERE BEING CUT FOR GREEN FEED. LIMITED NUMBER OF FIELD PEAS WERE OBSERVED. ALTHOUGH THE STANDS WERE GOOD AND IN BLOOMING STAGE THE MAJORITY WERE WEEDY OR INFESTED WITH MUSTARD. SOME FIELDS WERE BEING CUT FOR GREEN FEED OR SILAGE. SUDAN GRASS WAS OBSERVED IN PURE AND MIXED STANDS, OFTEN WITH VETCH. MOST FIELDS HAD A HEIGHT OF SIX - 10 INCHES AND LARGELY WEEDY OR WITH MUSTARD. OTHER FORAGE CROPS INCLUDED VARIOUS COMBINATIONS AND MIXTURES OF WINTER GRAIN, PEAS, VETCH, SUNFLOWER. THE HEIGHT OF THESE COMBINATION CROPS RANGED FROM FOUR TO 12 INCHES AND A FEW AS HIGH AS TWO AND ONE- HALF FEET. THE MAJORITY OF THESE FIELDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WERE WEEDY AND THE QUALITY RANGED FROM FAIR TO GOOD. SOME FIELDS WERE EITHER COMPLETELY HARVESTED OR IN PROCESS OF BEING CUT. A FEW WINTER GRAIN FIELDS WELL HEADED WERE OBSERVED PARTIALLY CUT AND SOME COMPLETELY HARVESTED FOR FEED.

7. PASTURES: PASTURES WERE GENERALLY FAIR AND OFTEN WEEDY BETWEEN MOSCOW AND KHARKOV. THEY IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY SOUTH AND BECAME VERY GOOD AND LUSH -- THIS LARGELY DUE TO RECENT RAINS.

8. SOIL MOISTURE FOR ENTIRE AREA WAS VERY GOOD TO EXCELLENT. SOIL PROBES SHOWED THE TOP THREE INCH LAYER TO HAVE SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF MOISTURE TO HOLD SOIL TOGETHER WHEN SQUEEZED WHILE LOWER SIX INCHES COULD BE WORKED INTO A BALL. TOP TWO INCHES DRY ONLY IN MOSCOW OBLAST.

9. CATTLE GENERALLY IN FAIR- GOOD CONDITION; BETTER THAN EXPECTED.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: A GOOD SHARE OF BORROW PITS SOUTH OF TULA (MUCH MORE THAN OBSERVED IN EARLIER YEARS) WAS PLANTED WITH SPRING BARLEY, WINTER WHEAT, OATS, OR A MIXTURE OF OATS AND A

LEGUME. ALL HAD GOOD GROWTH, AND WERE CLEAN. CONTINUOUS
STRETCHES OF BARLEY AND WINTER WHEAT -- SOME TWO KILOMETERS
LONG -- WERE OBSERVED. ON THE AVERAGE THEY WERE TWO AND ONE-
HALF TO THREE FEET TALL AND SOME WERE HEADING.
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